E 464
.T76
Copy 1

Townsend's National Record.

Class E464
Book .T76

THE MOST EVENTFUL PERIOD IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS U. S. A. CITY of WASHINGTON.

TOWNSEND'S NATIONAL RECORD

CONCERNING THE GREAT CIVIL WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

CONSIDERING the recent events that attracted the attention of the world towards American affairs —the extraordinary conflict that thus particularly affected the political, military and social condition of our National Union, and, incidentally, the rights and interests of mankind generally —we may well revive recollections of the *patriotic* movements in this Commercial Metropolis, while the rebel guns were yet thundering against Fort Sumter—when our Citizens first assembled to provide means for sustaining a National Government,t hen bankrupt, and threatened with destruction—and when one of the speakers in our Chamber of Commerce, James Gallatin (himself the son of a statesman prominent in establishing American Freedom), enthusiastically invoked his countrymen to *arouse* to the full importance of the crisis—saying that "History will make record of our proceedings, and that record will be consulted by future generations for encouragement, for instruction, and for warning through all time."

And right well also may we remember the last words of the gallant Winthrop, one of the earliest martyrs of the battle-field, when his patriotic spirit breathed a hope that "some competent person would keep a careful record of events, for we were making History with lightning speed."

But neither Gallatin, nor Winthrop, nor any other of the most sanguine men of that time, could then have formed any adequate idea of the long duration, the vast proportions, and immense consequences of the war thus forced upon us, for National self-preservation.

Even now—after having witnessed in this last Decade more varied events and mightier results than flowed from any former century, it is difficult for any one to conceive that any private citizen could have been found bold enough to undertake the task, and enthusiastic and brave enough to persevere amid extraordinary difficulties in forming a "Record" far surpassing anything which the above mentioned speakers could have imagined.

And yet, it is in the power of any intelligent citizen, by inspecting Townsend's great work in the "Society Library Building" in University Place, New York, to witness a most faithful and impartial "Record" of every event and person prominent enough for notice of any kind, *on either side*, during the convulsions of that prolific period, A "Record" which is a library in itself, creditable to the nation as well as to its author—a work so remarkable, that no one who has not actually examined it can have any adequate idea, except from concurrent statements of well-known Citizens, and Public Journals, and prominent Societies, extracts from which we prefer to submit to our readers rather than attempt to describe, what is so vividly portrayed by so many others, in whose judgment the whole community have perfect confidence. Differing as they may on political questions, it will be seen by the quotations we have impartially made, that all the writers and speakers concur cordially, in bearing testimony to the character of "Townsend's Record, and Encyclopædia of the Great Rebellion, and its Consequences."

After glancing at the Historical Collection which may be there seen—or even after reading the many concurrent testimonials herewith presented, the reader will doubtless cordially applaud and concur in the patriotic and generous feeling with which several prominent gentlemen are combining *to promote the public interests* by helping Mr. Townsend in *completing* the great NATIONAL WORK, to which he has devoted nearly thirteen years of life and many thousands of dollars. The gentlemen to whom we allude are Governor Dix, Chief Justice Chase, John Jacob Astor, Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, Marshall O. Roberts, Frederick De Peyster, Samuel L. Mitchell, Theodore Roosevelt, Adrian Iselin, Edward Cooper, John Taylor Johnston, George B. M'Clellan, Wilson G. Hunt, Mayor Havemeyer, Frank E. Howe, S. L. M. Barlow, Cyrus W. Field, Professor Morse, George Opdyke, John P. Townsend, William F. Cary, S. B. Chittenden, Benjamin H. Hutton, Jeremiah Curtis and Peter Townsend, who have each contributed $100 towards making up a sum of at least $10,000 to promote the completion of this extraordinary undertaking—those gentlemen expressing, in the subscription paper, their "appreciation of the great service rendered to the cause of History by Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, of this city, in his self-assumed labors, for the benefit of this, and succeeding generations, and as an evidence that his

E464
T76

fellow-citizens are not ungrateful towards those who originate and carry out enterprises *resulting in great public good*—to enable him to *complete* the remaining portion of the work upon which he has been so long and laboriously engaged." Gov. Dix says, in one of his letters, that *historically*, the "value of this work is inestimable;" and it may be incidentally remarked that the *pecuniary* value, estimated by men who know the peculiar value attached to such a Historical Treasury, by the managers of Great Libraries through the world, is variously set down at between $80,000 and $100,000. And in connection with the *completion* of the work, it may be added, that very much of the most important matter connected with the war and its consequences, is even now (1873) appearing in the daily prints, in controversies between men who were prominent on both sides, *Confederate* as well as *National*, during the whole of the Civil Strife—as, for instance, between Jefferson Davis and ex-Senator Foote, and also between Gen. Sherman and Gen. Wade Hampton concerning the burning of the city of Columbia, &c.—and proper regard for the truth of history, for "justice to all sides," renders it desirable that all such matter shall be fully included in the "*National* Record."

The names of Contributors for this patriotic purpose—a purpose in which the Nation at large is interested, far beyond Mr. Townsend individually—are inscribed as fast as received, on MEMORIAL TABLETS, besides being acknowledged through the newspapers—so that the American People, may know what citizens have aided in the completion of this great RECORD OF THEIR COUNTRY'S ANNALS: And the veneration with which society remembers the prominent men who anywise aided the patriotic cause during our Revolutionary Era, clearly indicates that these "Memorial Tablets" will acquire increasing respect as time rolls by, in the estimation of the public, as well as of the families and descendants of the Contributors, to whose patriotic spirit these Mementoes,—more permanent than marble,—will form enduring monuments.

Among the well-known gentlemen who have, through a dozen of years, watched the progress of this enterprise with the liveliest interest, the Rev. S. IRENÆUS PRIME may be early mentioned, as his knowledge (like that of the Rev. Henry W. Bellows, Gov. Dix, and a few others), "began with the beginning;" and his remarks about the characteristics of the work, may serve as an appropriate introduction to the quotations made from the opinions expressed by many others. Dr. Prime made the following statement in one of his recent editorials in the New York *Observer*:

"Upon the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency, in 1860, when the first mutterings of the coming storm were heard, Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, (son of the late John R. Townsend, of this city,) conceived the idea of collecting, and arranging in a form for ready reference, the chronicle of current events as it was given in the daily papers, as well as the comments and addresses made, when the particulars were fresh in the minds of the writers and speakers of the day. With a clear perception of the merits of the metropolitan press, he considered that he should find in the pages of the New York journals, either in an original or extracted form, *everything that was worth preserving;* for everything really of consequence, that appears in the papers of other cities some way, or some time, finds its way into the papers of New York city. Therefore, after careful consideration and examination of the ground, the author decided that between the objections of a too limited range, as not being exhaustive, and of a size too great to be really serviceable, the golden mean would be nearest found in confining the work to the Metropolitan Press." * *

This Historical Record and Encyclopædia, begun in 1860 (when Secession had openly commenced), contains nearly everything concerning the great national conflict—not merely down to the end of battle-fields, but to the close of the equally important strife connected with the re-organization of the National Union, by the re-admission of the Seceded States in 1870. And in this connection it is essential to remember, that much very valuable information concerning men and things on all sides during the war, North as well as South, has been attainable only since the close of the war, as it has been elicited by discussions in Congress, in Legislatures, in the public journals, in Historical Societies, and in the controversies of persons engaged on both sides, since the close of armed strife. "In short," says Dr. Prime, in the *Observer* editorial, "Townsend's Record contains nearly everything relating directly or indirectly to the great conflict, that has appeared in the New York *Herald*, *Times*, *Tribune*, *World*, *Daily News*, *Evening Post*, *Express*, *Commercial Advertiser*, *Soldier's Friend*, *Harpers'* and *Frank Leslie's* papers—and also includes such important publications as the '*Roll of Honor*,' giving the name and station of every individual who fell in the national service; the '*Volunteer Army Register*,' giving the name and station of every one of the hundreds of thousands of men engaged at any time in that service; with the '*Sanitary Memoirs*,' indicating the vast and excellent operations of the National Sanitary Commission, and of all who actively co-operated in its good and great work. 'No party bias has been allowed to interfere with the thorough compilation of the descriptive narratives, comments and reviews of correspondents, journalists, and public men of every political creed'—whether of the North or South."

The Work occupies about one hundred immense folio volumes—forming a library in itself, and embracing as much matter, printed and written, as could be placed in about a thousand volumes of ordinary octavo size. As the arrangement is in four columns on each page, a curious statistician "calculated" that "if the columns were arranged in a continuous line, they would measure nearly a hundred miles."

"The preparation of these volumes of the *Record*," says the *Observer*, "has been, however, *the least laborious portion of the work*—only one-

tenth of the time of the compiler having been occupied upon it—while nine-tenths have been devoted to the *Encyclopædia*," which is an analysis of, and guide to, the contents of this immense collection.

"To study the history of any particular subject by means of the *Record* alone, would be impossible," says Dr. Prime, in the *Observer*—"therefore, in order to make this great mass of information available, the compiler decided that *the mercantile principle of keeping accounts was the true one*—to regard his *Record* in the light of a merchant's day book, then to journalize the contents of the Record, and from the journals to redistribute the entries to their appropriate departments in what a merchant would term his ledger, but which the compiler calls his *Encyclopædia*. Each fact in a report, or a letter, or in an editorial, has been separately entered in the Journal. This portion of the work requires a journal of six hundred pages, to comprise an epitome of each of the hundred volumes of the Record; or about fifty thousand pages of writing to journalize the full number of volumes of the Record. These journals or waste-books are removed, when their entries are systematically transferred to the various departments in the Encyclopædia."

But "we now come to the most important part of this work," says Dr. Prime, in the *Observer*. "The Encyclopædia is not an index but a compilation, a compendium of the Record, a statement of each subject; so that the manifold and intricate episodes of the war—its origin, progress and results, can be developed instantaneously, and in all their relations, whether the subject relates to military matters, or finance, foreign relations, State fidelity, or individual patriotism, by word or act. Every General, Regiment, State, and Battle, has its department; where will be found a Chronological Record; also the Blockade, Privateering, the Army (Federal and Rebel), the Navy—all are related with impartial completeness, and will be found to satisfy all inquiry instantaneously; and it might be called the 'Doomsday Book' of our Nation's History for the last decade."

This Encyclopædia, when duly completed, will comprise about *twenty-five* Volumes, each of twelve hundred pages of manuscript, equal in size to the largest bank ledger—all elegantly bound and lettered. And the "key to the whole work (Record, Encyclopædia, &c.), is comprised in one volume which gives ready reference to the various statements in the whole collection." * * * "It is a wonderful work," Dr. Prime wrote on another occasion, "and the rich, the patriotic, and the benevolent, should combine to preserve it for this Country and this City." The *Observer* adding, at another time, that "it is the greatest literary curiosity, and most remarkable compilation of the age"—"a wonder of literary and mechanical labor, which deserves to be preserved as a great treasure-house of history, accessible for future ages."

"It has become a habit to say that the War of the Rebellion is forgotten, because men's minds are occupied with new incidents and events," said the *New York Evening Post* in one of its recent issues (August, 1873). "This is not, and ought not to be true; for, though we have ceased to talk of the war as a subject of immediate and pressing interest, yet, *as the most valuable and the most trying experience in the history of the nation*, it can never be lost sight of. It was the commencement of a new era, of which we are as yet only on the threshold: its influence on the character and the prosperity of the people, we are as yet still beginning to feel, and the results of that influence we cannot yet even calculate. It was an education to half a million of young men, whose first stern lessons in the duties of life were learned in the camp, and the battle-field, and the convictions which took them there; and in one-half the States of the Union, it utterly subverted the social systems and relations by which millions were governed, and left the people to learn and live by a new civilization." * * * "The war came, and with it the new time. It proclaimed 'liberty throughout the land, and to all the inhabitants thereof;' and the party of Slavery perished when Slavery was abolished." * * * "It does not in the least matter whether this great fact of history is acknowledged or discerned; the great fact, nevertheless, remains and asserts itself. We cannot turn the wheels of time backward, or restore an order of things which is passed away and done with. To the new order, events are adjusting and will adjust themselves, whether men and 'organs' say yea or nay." * * *

In a former issue, the same journal (the *Evening Post*) said—"The Rebellion has caused the production of more books than any other event in the history of the world. The amount of paper and print that has been consumed in the issue of the different volumes and pamphlets upon the military, social, and political aspects of our civil strife, is immense, and copies have been sown broadcast throughout the land; but, when the time shall have arrived for the production of an impartial and dispassionate history of the war, it is *not to these works* that the historian will be likely to look for his facts, but rather to the narrative of occurrences as they appeared in the columns of the daily press. To arrange and classify, ready for use, the material he will there find, would be so great a labor that it would alone be enough to deter many from entering upon the task. *This work*, however, *has happily been done* by Mr. Townsend *during the progress of events*, in a manner so complete and methodical, that all who in future years, either to satisfy personal curiosity or in the performance of literary labors, desire information *upon any matters* closely connected with or incidental to the Rebellion, will be enabled to find it *as easily as they would search for a word in the dictionary or a name in the directory*. But few persons are aware of this fact; and we therefore give below some account of a work which is at once comprehensive, impartial and unique."

After a lucid explanation of the varied contents of the Collection, the *Evening Post* concludes

by saying that "it is important that this work should be placed where it will be secure against fire, and open to public inspection. Should it be destroyed, it would be impossible to replace it." * * * "It may be doubted if any great historical period has ever before been so profusely, and we may say exhaustively, illustrated, as our great Civil War in Mr. Townsend's truly magnificent books. Mr. Townsend can never be adequately rewarded for his self-sacrificing zeal and perseverance, but he should not be permitted to lose the work and money that he has employed in this compilation for the public benefit."

A special Committee of the "New York Historical Society," consisting of Messrs. Charles P. Daly, Charles P. Kirkland, William Adams, James W. Beekman, and E. Boudinot Servoss—after thorough examination of the Townsend Collection, reported that "there has been formed from this RECORD, in a compact form, a perfect ENCYCLOPÆDIA, enabling any one to make *an immediate reference to any subject* appertaining to persons, places or things, from the incipient steps taken in the Rebellion, down to the present moment. (About one-tenth of the time of the Compiler has been occupied on the RECORD, and nine-tenths on the ENCYCLOPÆDIA.) This work, judging not only from our examination, and the scholarly acquirements of the author, but fitly-spoken words of commendation from the Union League Club, the historians Motley and Bancroft, Dr. Cogswell, the Press, and by societies kindred to this, is certainly unique, not only on account of its gigantic proportions, but its singular *impartiality*—Mr. Townsend having abstained from showing any political preferences, while engaged in the compilation of the descriptive narratives, comments and reviews of correspondents, journalists, and public men of every creed and status. This voluminous RECORD plainly portrays the vastness of the Rebellion. Mr. Townsend, at the commencement of his labors, was induced to believe in a long-continued battle for the Union and the integrity of the Federal Compact, but at the same time he little anticipated the extent to which this ponderous work would reach; yet, cheered by the sympathy and well-wishes of friends, he has, with a spirit of commendable determination, labored constantly from its inception, and, if we can judge by the past, will close the work faithfully, should his life and health be spared. We are at a loss to place an estimate as to the intrinsic value of this work, which it is but fair to presume *can never be duplicated*, but must remain *distinctive and unique in its character*—a thesaurus of facts, which the future historian will collate and combine into permanent and philosophic testimony." * * * In approving the Report, from which extracts are here given, the New York Historical Society, after eulogistic remarks from various distinguished members, expressed the prevalent opinion by passing the emphatic resolution elsewhere quoted.

Ex-Governor Edwin D. Morgan, well known as chief magistrate of the State of New York in a trying crisis, was one of the earliest approvers of the plan adopted for impartially preserving all records of the late "times that tried men's souls." Opinions elsewhere expressed show the satisfaction with which Gen. Dix, and the Rev. Henry W. Bellows (President of the National Sanitary Commission) regarded the project and its prosecution; but the opinions expressed in a communication signed jointly by them, and ex-Gov. Morgan, contain some views which should not be overlooked in estimating the characteristics of the enterprize.

"Having been familiar with the nature and objects of Mr. Thomas S. Townsend's great work," say these gentlemen, "we take pleasure in making public our appreciation of it, and especially in calling the attention of authors, and publishers of works of a historical or statistical character relating to the subject, to the importance of sending to Mr. T., for insertion, duplicate copies, in sheets or otherwise, of all such publications. By insertion in Mr. T.'s work, (which is like a Grand Repository, and incapable of publication or reproduction,) the results of their labors are preserved and tabulated, in connection with all which his industry has gathered together; and when completed, there will be afforded, for the future reference of all authors, what we consider will be *the only complete statistical and documentary record* of the Rebellion, its origin and consequences; and which must eventually be of prime necessity in the preparation of any clear and complete history of the War," &c. (Signed—E. D. Morgan, John A. Dix, and Henry W. Bellows.)

The Hon. George Opdyke, who was one of the earliest in the Chamber of Commerce to urge an energetic support of the National Government in 1861, and who was also Mayor of New York City during a most eventful period of the late troubles, says, in writing to a friend, "I have carefully examined Mr. Townsend's work; and, having contributed to aid in its completion, can earnestly recommend your co-operation. It is well worthy of the encouragement of our citizens."

And John P. Townsend, Esq., another Contributor, in a letter on the subject, urging a friend to unite in promoting the object, says—"I have freely contributed, and you may hereafter rejoice in having done likewise."

The Hon. Edwards Pierrepont, writing to Mr. Stanton when Secretary of War, said—"Mr. Thos. S. Townsend has collected all possible information relating to the Rebellion. It is digested and indexed in about 100 large volumes. It seems to me invaluable."

The Rev. Dr. Wm. F. Morgan, Rector of St. Thomas' Church, New York, writing to the Hon. Gideon Welles, when Secretary of the Navy, speaks of "The vast and comprehensive work upon which he [Mr. Townsend] has been so patiently engaged for many years. * * * It will be regarded as an invaluable acquisition by those who know its value, and by all who may have occasion to consult it."

In the same practical spirit, a quotation may

be made from a letter indicating the manner in which the undertaking was viewed by gentlemen prominent in the National Sanitary Commission—the President of that body, the Rev. Dr. Bellows, after his return from California just before the close of the war, congratulating Mr. T. upon being "still at work upon your [his] magnificent undertaking"—President Bellows adding —"I had the pleasure of *exploiting* your 'labor of love' upon the Pacific coast, in several public addresses, in which *I illustrated the vastness of the war* BY THE GRANDEUR OF ITS RECORD as prepared by your hands." On a later occasion, Dr. Bellows said—"I have always felt a deep interest in your work, and been willing to co-operate with others in securing a public purchaser."

As a further specimen of the many inquiries and references concerning matters involved in the history of men and events during the late National troubles, some of these inquiries coming from Congressmen and others engaged in public affairs—it may be mentioned that, after long and unavailing efforts to obtain certain facts and documents, General N. P. Banks, in 1870, wrote from the Capitol to Mr. Townsend in New York, to obtain (if possible) a copy of "a letter of Jefferson Davis which was said to have been written in May, 1862, on the subject of the possible evacuation of Richmond by the Confederate troops at that time"—and also about the dates of European movements concerning "the recognition of the Confederate States as belligerents." In acknowledging the receipt from Mr. Townsend of the information he wanted, General Banks wrote that he had "never before been able to find any person who had seen" the Davis letter. "I am very glad that you have been able to find so clear a trace of it, for I began to think, so little was it known, that I might have been mistaken myself in regard to its contents," adding, that this Davis letter is "one of the most important publications of the war," and that "the preservation of such matters is a good evidence of the value of your Collection."

A solitary example may illustrate the manifold ways in which the TOWNSEND RECORDS are referred to concerning the interests and feelings of those who were privates in the ranks, as well as by prominent officers like Gen. Banks and others. In a recent letter, Mr. R. R. Knapp says to Mr. Townsend—"I have to thank you for the valuable information received through your ENCYCLOPÆDIA, regarding B. Beach Kennedy, formerly of Company E, in the Sixth U. S. Cavalry. He is suffering from a wound received in 1862, and is refused a pension because he is unable to prove that he was wounded at Slatersville. I myself, a member of his company, was away on detached duty at the time, and can only testify to my knowledge and belief—others of the command are scattered, no one knows where. The officer in command of the company at the time is out of the service, and all letters fail to reach him. And, but for your valuable information—*even to day and date*, this man, who well deserves the pension of his government, might die for the need of it. Again I thank you, and trust you may receive the just reward for your untiring efforts to preserve for the country such a minute and clear history of the War of the Rebellion."

And in this connection —speaking of practical utility and importance—the opinions of no gentleman in any country are worthier of more earnest consideration than those uttered, after long and continued careful examination of the subject, by Dr. Cogswell, the organizer and first Superintendent of the ASTOR Library, who had better opportunity than, probably, any other person ever enjoyed, in examining all the prominent Libraries of Europe as well as of America. My examination of your collection of original documents relating to the ruthless war, * * * impressed me with a high idea of its value." "*Its plan is excellent*, and its *execution*, as far as I could judge from the time I was able to give to it, *faithful and thorough*. It appeared to include every official paper, both civil and military, that has appeared *on either side* during the Rebellion; and also all those relating to the dissensions with foreign nations on questions that have arisen in connection with it. As a chronological and synchronous record of the events, it is more minute, and more authentic than could be found in any other way; and as documentary material for the historian of those events, it is absolutely indispensable. Its voluminousness might render it inconvenient in use, but for its *perfectly systematic arrangement*, which, *with its minute and complete index*, OBVIATE ALL OBJECTIONS on that score, and RENDER THE WORK as *easy to be consulted as if it were comprised in a single volume*. The manifest labor, time and cost, which must have been bestowed upon this great work," says Dr. Cogswell, in conclusion, "warrant the inference that it will not be duplicated; and hence it is to be hoped it will BELONG TO THE NATION, and be deposited where it will be most convenient of access. * * * With many thanks to you for the opportunity afforded me of inspecting this rich and truly wonderful record of the Monster Rebellion, I am truly and respectfully yours, (signed) Jos. G. COGSWELL."

Mr. Henry O'Rielly (the projector and constructor of the first Telegraph Range that connected the different sections of the Union, and the editor of the first *daily* newspaper (in 1826) published between Albany and the Pacific Ocean),—who presented to the New York Historical Society the most valuable Collection of historical materials ever given to any institution, concerning American Progress, since the foundation of the Republic,—says, in a letter to Mr. Townsend:—"In manner and matter, your 'Historical Record and Encyclopædia of the Great Civil War' is without parallel. It is quite as remarkable in its way, as the extraordinary contest which it depicts. Never before were the annals of any Country recorded with such fullness and impartiality—the statements and opinions of all parties concerned in the conflict, on all sides, rebel as well as loyal, being included, in addition to its multitudinous statements concerning military operations, and all persons named publicly in connection with them,

and to the popular action in conventions and public meetings, as well as to Legislative and Executive action in the General and State Governments. * * * The manner in which so many prominent men *of all parties* have commended your work, and asked Legislative approval thereof by making it a part of the Public Archives, is the very highest testimonial to the success with which you have preserved everything requisite to satisfy impartial inquirers now, and in future ages —in this and every other State of the American Union. The generous tribute of such men, concerning your great work, is such as was never before given *by men of all parties*, in reference to Historical Events of extraordinary character. * * * The work should be secured for permanent preservation and *ready reference*, where it would be most convenient for examination by the multitudes that will be always thronging from all parts of the Union to visit the Empire State and its Commercial Metropolis—*as there is hardly a family or locality in the land for which there may not be found some records* concerning the share which their respective relatives and regions took in the great contest that so long convulsed the nation—a contest the most extraordinary in the annals of civilization, as it involved peculiar interests and principles never before distinctly submitted to the action of National and State authorities, and the arbitrament of arms. * * * Besides all this, your great work marks an epoch in the *form of Public Records*—the novelty of its plan, its admirable arrangement for *ready reference* by all inquirers, evincing a degree of genius as well as of patient, sagacious and persevering labor, that should secure for you a degree of public appreciation, and of pecuniary recompense, commensurate with the unique and important service you have rendered to the Truth of History, and to the Annals of your Country. * * * You have literally made an important mark on History—furnishing an example worthy of being emulated in the preservation of annals of *all* great Cities, States and Nations."

Alluding to such commendations of "the merits of Mr. Townsend's voluminous and invaluable Record of the Rebellion, as collected by him from every source of contemporary information" (to quote its own language), the New York *World* said that "no such mass of material for the future historian has been gathered by any one of whom we know or have heard." * * * It is "the richest store of current history that was ever collected,"—including "a pretty complete history of *every loyal and rebel regiment*—lists of political prisoners, army and navy officers (regular and volunteer), vessels on the blockade, vessels captured, foreign (as well as American) editorials, extracts of national poems, accounts of battles and skirmishes, and thousands of other matters." "The Encyclopædia affords an index to the whole work, which is one of the most complete ever conceived and executed, as the history of any war."

In a letter to Gen. Garfield of Ohio, the President of the Sanitary Commission (Dr. Bellows) further said, "I have watched for years its progress—consulted its authorities—and know the conscientious thoroughness and method of the work. * * * I do not believe that another man, competent to this task, could have been found in the country—who would have given up so many years of his life exclusively to the undertaking. His peculiar *persistency* has carried it forward through extraordinary difficulties; and his character, his pride and his interests guarantee its completion. * * * I make bold to say that it [such work] will never be done again, and that Mr. Townsend's peculiar *personality* is the main reason why it is done now, and can alone account for the existence of the RECORD. * * * It seems to be almost a providential felicity that such a curious and unique RECORD exists."

And in a letter to Mr. Townsend, the same gentleman (Dr. Bellows) says—"I have so often expressed my sense of its *public importance and value*, that whatever weight belongs to my opinion is already in the scale. Thirty years hence, when perhaps the History of the War will begin to be *fitly* written, the indispensable importance of your Encyclopædia will be universally acknowledged. It will then be worth its weight in gold. Now, it requires rare skill and experience in weighing the value of such materials to estimate its importance. * * * I hold it to be quite providential that you should have had the foresight, the disposition, the ability, and the patience to undertake and carry so far forward this unique undertaking; and I am profoundly anxious not only that you should be enabled to complete it, but that it should pass at once into the possession of your native city."

The Hon. John Jay, American Minister in Austria, writing to ex-Governor Morgan, says—"I am asked to express to you my opinion of Mr. Townsend's 'Historical Record and Encyclopædia of the Great Rebellion, &c.' * * * It seems to me quite superfluous to add my testimony about the value of this work, to that of such admirable judges as Dr. Cogswell, Gen. Dix, and Mr. Bancroft, but, as I am thus requested, I beg leave to say, that I had the opportunity of examining a large portion of the RECORD when the volumes were deposited for a while in the rooms of the Union League Club, in New York; and that I entirely concurred in the resolutions adopted by that body, to the effect that, in their judgment, it was a work of National importance and should be the Nation's property."

"With everybody else who has seen it," says Mr. Swinton, author of well known sketches of the Civil War, and formerly attached to the New York *Daily Times*—"I think the work of incalculable value to history, and to the country; and it is mortifying to think that it should not quickly be taken hold of by those who are possessed of the power or the means. I wish that I had either."

"Those at all conversant with the labor of historical research among old manuscripts and worm-eaten books, often bearing only remotely on the subject on which information is desired,"

says the New York *Herald*, in one of its latest commendatory allusions to this work, "will comprehend how important Mr. Townsend's 'Record' will prove to future generations of writers, in enabling them to cull whatever information they may desire on any important point of the civil struggle, *with the facility that a banker consults his accounts*. It has been a labor of love with the author, for otherwise he could never have toiled on for years, as he has done, without any encouragement except the knowledge of the benefit he was conferring on mankind. Such a work as this will lengthen the lives of the great men of the future, by rendering unnecessary the immense waste of time which the want of ready and reliable information has hitherto imposed on historical writers. Some gentlemen recognizing the importance of this record, have agreed to subscribe towards a fund of $10,000 to enable Mr. Townsend to complete the work he has been so many years engaged upon, and we hope that the list will soon be completely filled. It is in the interest of History, that great guide of humanity, that the labors so long and perseveringly carried on should be brought to a successful termination. Some fears have been expressed that this work would find its way to the British Museum, owing to the want of interest manifested in it by the public, and even by the learned Societies of America: but we cannot believe that there is such lack of patriotism in our public bodies. The materials for American history, which we have here gathered together, are peculiarly the property of the *American* people, and on no account should this useful National Record be allowed to pass into the possession of foreigners."

"Every event of the struggle, however minute, has been placed by Mr. Townsend in one of several scores of huge elephant-sized volumes, and these are accompanied by careful indexes and analyses, so that, *at a glance*, any feature of *any campaign* may be brought to light," says the New York *Mercury*. "Incredible labor has been brought to bear upon this enterprise; and the system upon which it was prepared, was so philosophic, and comprehensive, that the best critics in the land have expressed their admiration. We instance Mr. Townsend's 'Encyclopædia of the Great Rebellion' as one of the many enterprises calculated to make the story of the war imperishable. * * * Such achievements should be National property—all honor to the patient, patriotic man who undertakes to record them!"

"Now when we turn to our own Revolution, or to those of England and France, we may say, that no Country can present such a Historical Record as that which Mr. Townsend has given us from the daily press of this Country," says the New York *Daily Express*. "De Tocqueville found in the British Museum upwards of 12,000 French pamphlets, relating to the French Revolution, but we say, that neither the British Museum, nor the Bibliotheque Imperial of Paris, can ever possess such a history or record of events, as this admirably-arranged work of Mr. Townsend. * * * It will of itself be a guide and index to the events of the war; and will enable the future historian to bring up the panorama of the great contest, with all its striking and varying events and incidents. Mr. Townsend has given his sole and exclusive exertions towards the accomplishment of his object, and has placed the Country under lasting obligations to him."

The New York *World* illustrates its general commendation by specific references to the leading features of the enterprize under consideration, and its remarks were widely copied by European journals. The *World* said—"There has not been a topic discussed, nor has an occurrence transpired of the slightest National moment, since the secession of South Carolina, whereof Mr. Townsend has not secured, not only what in his judgment he might consider an *impartial* account, but *almost every* account, which may have been published at the time, in the city press. That part of the Record devoted to military and naval operations is of special interest. In it a history of *every* regiment in the Union army, and of many in that of the *Confederates*, is fully and impartially given; when and where they were raised, how officered, in what battles engaged, what losses they have suffered, and what amount of glory, or the reverse, achieved. The navy, and every known ship and mariner belonging to it, meets with the same amount of minute and honorable mention. Officers, and men of both branches of the public service, who have notably distinguished themselves have their names and deeds inscribed on Mr. Townsend's 'Roll of Honor,' and those who have been guilty of brutal or dishonorable acts, will find themselves handed down to an equal, though less enviable immortality. Every list of killed, wounded, and prisoners; of invalids in hospitals, and of those who have perished from disease, has been collated, analyzed, and as far as possible been systematized, so that the fate of each individual can be ascertained at a glance. Political prisoners have not been forgotten, neither have the privateers, nor the blockaders, nor in short, anything that can afford one particle of information, to whoever, now, or hereafter, may seek to learn the story of our sad and sanguinary civil war."

The New York *Evening Post* declared, that "No work has been compiled, which will convey to posterity a more truthful and perfect history of the late conflict." And the editors, themselves well known in the field of historical research, emphatically said, on another occasion, that "It is a work of *peculiar* interest, in that it is the first attempt ever made to collect and arrange for the convenient use of future historians the record of great events as given from day to day, during their occurrence, in the newspaper press."

The New York *World* is not less emphatic in its commendation,—the editor saying that "This work is the most exhaustive collection, from which history is made, that has ever been gathered together for the use of any Macaulay, Motley, Prescott, or Froude. No historian ever yet had so copious a store of material to draw upon. It contains, in one hundred admirably arranged

volumes, the greater part of those details which other explorers, in similar fields of research, have spent a great part of their lifetime in extracting from official pigeon-holes, and ferreting out of the dust of obscurity."

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* says, that Mr. Townsend's work "is a monument of persevering industry, and of literary labor, and it should never be allowed to leave the Country."

The New York *Times* said, that "The work is nothing less than the compilation of all the information contained in the New York daily and principal weekly papers, from 1860 to 1870. This compilation is declared by trustworthy parties, to have been made with care and accuracy; if so, its value is simply incalculable."

While the foregoing extracts furnish brief indications of the value attached, by the New York Journals, to the Townsend National Record, the sentiment of prominent Journals in other cities, as far as their editors have familiarized themselves with the contents, are equally emphatic—as, for instance, in Boston and Washington—a few quotations from whose commentaries must suffice.

The Boston *Post*, when mentioning the importance of historical records of such an eventful period, said—"There is one gentleman in the United States, Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, of New York, who had the foresight, when the war of the rebellion commenced, to arrange a systematical plan for making a Record of its successive events."

And the Boston *Evening Transcript* added —"It is a wonderful work, and of great interest to all." Other Boston journals expressed similar sentiments.

The Washington *Chronicle* refers, pointedly, to the peculiar value of Townsend's Record, as an *appendage* of the National Government at the Capitol. "Those only who are identified with Journalism, can understand the extraordinary usefulness of such a collection," says the editor of the *Chronicle*—adding that "There is not an hour, during a session of Congress, when some fact, to confirm history or refute misrepresentation, is not found necessary; and the difficulty of obtaining a place, to which immediate and reliable reference can be had, is constantly felt. Mr. Townsend has supplied this important desideratum."

In Europe, as in this country, a sense of the utility of this "unique American enterprise" is spreading among inquirers anxious to learn particulars of the great crisis through which our National Government has passed. The *Northern Whig* of *Belfast, Ireland*, quoting from an English paper, says—"The most singular and interesting Record of the war has been compiled by Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, of New York," and "The value of such a compilation, to a future historian, is inestimable."

Such foreign expressions acquire interest from the fact that European opinion, in historical circles, is turning towards the expediency of *securing* the Work for some one of the Libraries, like that of the British Museum, as the best possible mode of acquiring something like an adequate knowledge of the extraordinary political, military and social condition of the United States, before and after, as well as during the convulsions which threatened the disruption of the Great Republic.

The New York Historical Society, after thorough examination, by one of its Committees and other members, "Resolved, that the New York Historical Society acknowledges the services rendered to the Cause of History by Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, of this city, in the foresight, skill, and perseverance, displayed in the preparation of the Historical Record and Encyclopædia of the Great Rebellion."

And the Union League Club of New York, after remarks from various members, passed resolutions declaring that "The great work of Mr. Thomas S. Townsend, entitled by him 'Townsend's Historical Record and Encyclopædia of the Great Rebellion,' is contained in about One Hundred Volumes, and has cost him many years of labor, and a large pecuniary expenditure. It will, in the opinion of this Club, be invaluable, if not indispensable, to the future Historian of the sublime struggle through which our Country has just passed."

At a late meeting of citizens, in the Rooms of the College of Heraldry in the "Society Library Building," in New York, of which the Rev. S. Irenæus Prime was Chairman, and at which Governor Dix, and several other public men were present, specially held to "examine the Townsend System of Analyzing, Classifying and Indexing, as exemplified in a hundred folio volumes of the Historical Record and Encyclopædia," a resolution was adopted, declaring that "that work should become the property of the people of the State, whose history is so largely embodied in it, if not of the National Government." And one of the peculiar characteristics of the work was particularly approved by further resolutions, which declare that "It is highly important in all Governmental organizations, whether National, State or Municipal; and in all large business corporations, like the great Railroad Companies, for instance,—that the records of all transactions shall be so clearly analyzed and indexed as to enable all inquirers, including particularly the public journalists, to ascertain quickly, any needful facts, concerning the operations of governmental and corporate officers, and the nature, progress, and expense of all movements in which they are engaged: And, therefore, that the *new system* of recording and analyzing current events, exemplified by Thomas S. Townsend, in his 'Historical Record and Encyclopædia,' concerning movements and men, in civil and military affairs through the Union, during the last eventful Decade, would, if generally adopted or emulated, form *an important epoch in the mode of making and preserving Governmental and Corporate Records*, as well as all other historical records, by enabling the public to watch carefully, the operations which so largely affect the integrity, and the financial condition of the community."

The late Chief Justice Chase (whose last letter,

written from Washington when he was leaving for New York, where he died, related to this Historical Record) recently expressed his high appreciation of the practical value of this work in furnishing details on important features of the public service. The voluminous "abstract of matters connected with the Treasury, during my administration, contained in your valuable compilation, is admirably prepared," said the Chief Justice in a letter to Mr. Townsend, "and I hope the work itself will find an appreciation which it so justly merits." And, on another occasion after fully examining the volumes of Mr. Townsend's collection, the Chief Justice wrote—"I can add nothing in commendation of your work to what has been already said by others. I can only repeat what I have already said to you, that it ought to be either in the Library of Congress, or in that of the State of New York."

The present Governor of the State of New York, Gen. John A. Dix, whose attention was early attracted towards the Townsend Record, says—"I have watched it in its progress with great interest, and a high appreciation of its great value. Fifty years from this time it will, undoubtedly, have a value which cannot be estimated—as, indeed, it has now." * * * Adding, "I regard it of the very greatest importance that this work should be preserved in some Public Library." And "I shall be happy to use any personal influence I may possess, to secure this valuable Work for the State, or to aid other gentlemen, if they think it more desirable, to procure an appropriation from Congress to make the purchase, or to raise the necessary funds by subscription."

The United States Sanitary Commission had ample opportunity for examining and referring to this National Record and Encyclopædia; and the President of that most estimable organization, the Rev. Henry W. Bellows, says—"It contains alone the full materials for a history of the Rebellion. Close every other library or avenue of information, and set the philosophical Motley down with this work about him, and he would have every thing he needed, to give the world the full proportions of our Civil War."

The present Lieutenant Governor of New York, General John C. Robinson, after thorough examination of the characteristics of the work, said—'I sincerely hope it may become the property of the State. It affords material for the future historian, which can nowhere else be found, and as its value is inestimable, it ought to become the property of the State or Nation."

The Hon. Edward McPherson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, whose official position, in connection with inquiries constantly occurring about the National Capitol, gives peculiar weight to his language, wrote to Mr. Townsend that "It is well that some one had the industry, foresight and intelligence, to undertake and execute the work you prescribed for yourself, and you will receive abundant thanks, as well as (I hope) adequate remuneration."

The Hon. S. S. Cox, M. C. from New York—judging of the value of such an impartial and comprehensive record of the multitudinous events of the last decade, says—"I am satisfied beyond all doubt of the inestimable importance of Mr. Townsend's work."

The Adjutant-General of the U. S. Army, Gen. E. D. Townsend, writes, that "The work Mr. Townsend has so carefully prepared, certainly merits the commendation bestowed upon it by Gen. Dix."

And the Quartermaster-General of the United States Army, General M. C. Meigs, who served with such perfect satisfaction through all the storms of the late decade, says—"It will be impossible to duplicate Mr. Townsend's work, and it must remain the most complete and minute journal of the events of the Great Struggle." In the words of the distinguished publisher, Putnam, "It is not only unique, but must remain so."

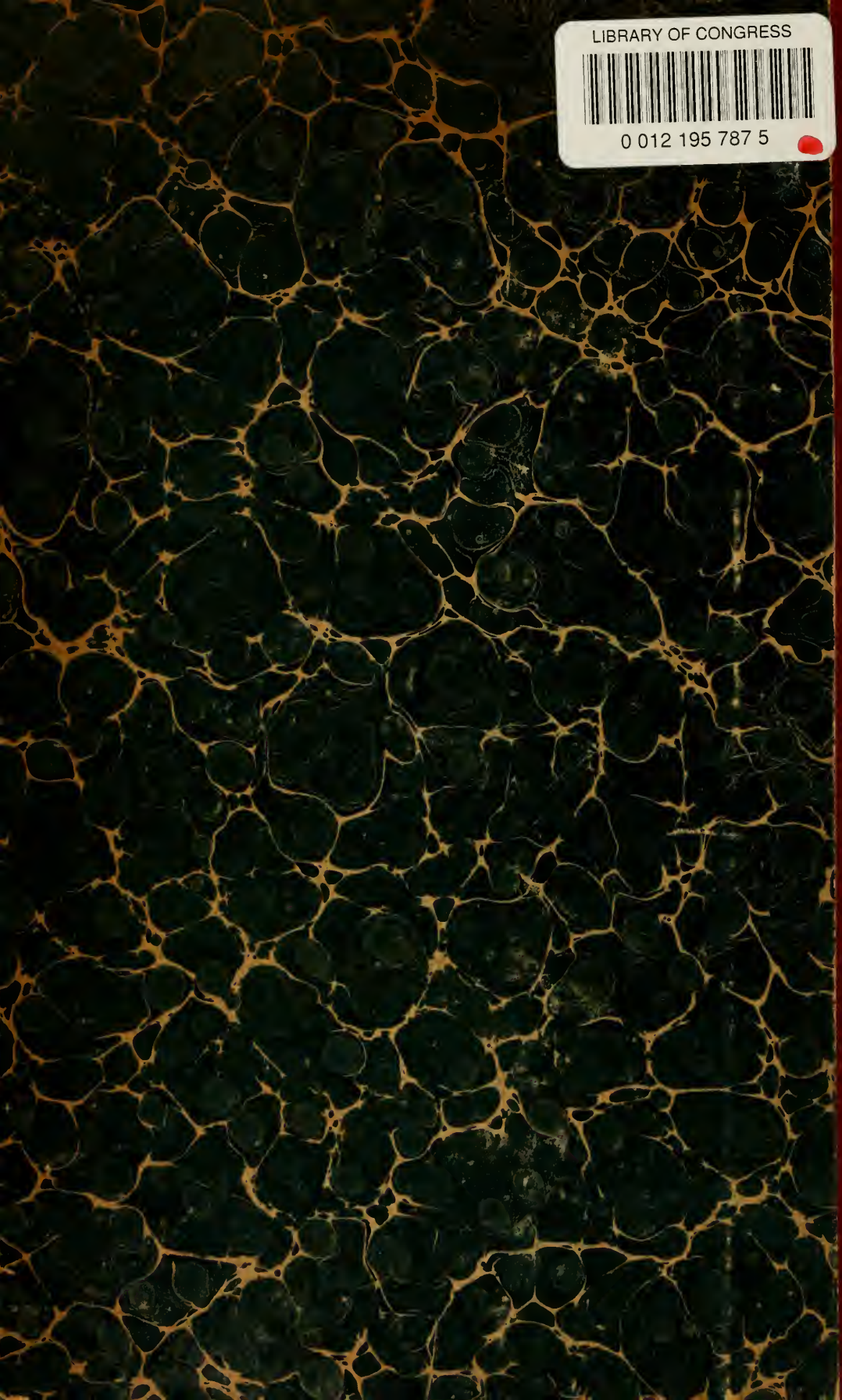
Few men have had better opportunities than Col. Frank E. Howe for *knowing practically* the value of such a RECORD as Mr. Townsend has prepared. Col. H., now and for several years the Special Agent of the Treasury Department in New York, was appointed Agent by several States to superintend the wants and comforts of their respective regiments when passing through this State on their way to or from the seat of war—his successful exertions, gratuitously rendered, being highly appreciated by the "rank and file" as well as by the officers from those States, as well as by his fellow-citzens in New York. His testimony is therefore specially valuable. At the late meeting of citizens for examining the Townsend Collection in the Society Library Building, (elsewhere mentioned,) he is reported in the printed proceedings as having "spoken of the peculiar and varied opportunities he had had of knowing the character of the work almost from its commencement, as various official duties during the last ten years had led him often to seek information from the Townsend Record, which information was always readily obtained, as almost every important fact may be ascertained respecting every regiment and vessel employed for or against the National Government, during the Rebellion. He considers the Townsend System very desirable for application in the records of all Governmental or Corporation transactions."

On the same occasion, Mr. George W. Clarke, a member of the Legislature, said, among other things, that he not only thought that this New System was worthy of adoption in State and Municipal affairs, but that Townsend's great National Record, now under examination, which thus first exemplifies the value of that system, should become the property of the people of the State whose history is so largely embodied in it, if not of the National Government; and a resolution which he framed to this effect was unanimously adopted.

Mr. J. D. Warner, among his remarks, added to the suggestion of Mr. C. by saying that Townsend's Record concerns *not alone* our own State, but *all the States*—supplying a mass of well-digested information concerning *all sections of the*

Union, that cannot possibly be obtained now in any other place; concluding by remarking, however, that the work is eminently National in every respect—embracing records concerning all the States, *perfectly impartial as well as thorough* concerning all matters of political doctrine and sectional interests or feelings.

Senator Banks, of Albany, lately referred to the important interests which the State of New York has in common with all the other States of the Union (though to a greater extent, owing to its preponderance of population, &c.), and presented a memorial on the subject from many well-known citizens, in which the memorialists express their sense of the "great historical and statistical value of Townsend's RECORD, especially to the State of New York," and express hearty concurrence in the printed testimonials annexed, concerning its "value and importance." The paper referred to by Senator Banks was signed by Wm. C. Bryant, John A. Dix, E. C. Benedict, Jackson S. Schultz, J. Watts De Peyster, Charles K. Graham, S. Irenæus Prime, Henry W. Bellows, Charles P. Kirkland, E. D. Morgan, Charles P. Daly, Erastus Brooks, and other citizens.


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 012 195 787 5